

P-Morris, Greg  
Donnelly, Tom

SOC. 4-01-3 Mission:  
Impossible

SOC. 4-01-2 The Spook  
Who Sat by the  
Door

# Tom Donnelly

## Hidden faces



GREG MORRIS says it is not entirely impossible that Barbara Bain might be back in "Mission: Impossible" next year. He said he didn't really know anything for sure, there's still a court fight going on, he hasn't really discussed the situation with Miss Bain and her husband, Martin Landau, both of whom left the show in an atmosphere of extreme acrimony.

"The way they came to leave is obviously a sore point with them," Mr. Morris said. "You understand when Barbara accepted that Emmy award and blasted away at certain people who were her enemies she wasn't talking about the cast or CBS or anybody working directly on the show?" He said this was a case of a studio (Paramount) being taken over by a large conglomerate (Gulf and Western) so nobody can tell who's actually running things.

"When we were owned by Desilu I had my squabbles but I could always talk things over with somebody," Mr. Morris said. "With a smaller studio you can have a more human relationship. But the way it is now there's a vice-president in charge of production I've never met and never want to meet. I'm not even saying it's somebody at Gulf and Western who is to blame for whatever trouble Barbara had. When you get these vast proliferating corporate structures you just don't have contact with a human face."

The major Hollywood studios, including Paramount, are going thru a drastic retrenchment and reorganization phase at the moment; the new breed of executives has announced the end of the multi-million-dollar movie spectacle. Mr. Morris said that bulletin is going to turn out to be mostly hot air. "Sure, 'Easy Rider' and 'Alice's Restaurant' are cleaning up but other pictures aimed at the young crowd have bombed. I haven't seen 'Patton' but they tell me it's great, and according to the new rules it shouldn't have been made because the kids never heard of Patton. We aren't going to have strictly low-budget pictures now, just because some \$20 million musicals laid eggs. Sidney Poitier and Barbra Streisand and Paul Newman have formed their own company, and if it cost \$50 million to get them for a picture, somebody'd pay it."

Mr. Morris has his own production company, and he's "reading properties." Does he have an idea for that different film? He said, "Yes, there's a novel called 'The Spook Who Sat by the Door' about the possibility of a black guerrilla uprising. I hope that never happens but I'm afraid the only way it ISN'T going to happen is if somebody makes a movie like that, and scares the hell out of everyone. We sure

need some kind of strong medicine when we've got an uninvolved type like Nixon in the White House and a governor like Maddox telling people to slash the tires on school buses. I think the one point Nixon ever made was when he said 'silent majority.' That's what we've got, a majority that doesn't want to get involved and doesn't want to make the effort of fixing what we all know has to be fixed. The 'silent majority' keeps pretending it doesn't know what it damn well knows. On dozens of issues. CBS shows a documentary that says millions of Americans go to bed hungry and the Secretary of Agriculture says that's not true. Well it WAS true and it's STILL true and when does the silent majority stop pretending?"

• • •

MR. MORRIS was talking to the press in a hotel dining room; a stream of autograph hunters frequently broke the mood. At one time or another he found occasion to say that Cleveland Amory may have had something when he said a prime reason for the failure of "The Leslie Uggams Show" was that Leslie, however talented in other ways, just didn't meet one of TV's special requirements: "She wasn't a good hostess." Now Peter Graves is a chintzy host, the members of the "Mission: Impossible" crew keep telling him, because "in all the years we've been going to his apartment for instructions he's never once offered us a drink, a sandwich, or a girl." In the March 15 episode, by the way, Mr. Morris does get to kiss a girl, for the first time in his four years on the series.